



Indiana Department of Homeland Security

302 W. Washington Street Room E-208
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Facial Hair Guidance

Effective date: December 1, 2007

The purpose of this statement is to insure the safety of firefighters while performing skills during interior structural firefighting situations and any other hazardous condition during training sessions. This guidance is for use by District Training Councils in the delivery of training at the District level.

This guidance is based on an OSHA regulation and is enforced by the District Training Council for the safety of the firefighter. Each district training council shall develop policy to insure that everyone who attends training provided by as part of the Indiana Firefighter Training System shall comply with this policy. Instructors shall ensure that all students follow the policy.

The following is an excerpt from the OSHA regulations:

OSHA Face piece seal protection.

1910.134(g)(1)(i) The employer shall not permit respirators with tight-fitting face pieces to be worn by employees who have:

1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A) Facial hair that comes between the sealing surface of the face piece and the face or that interferes with valve function; or

1910.134(g)(1)(i)(B) Any condition that interferes with the face-to-face piece seal or valve function.

References

The Jones and Bartlett "Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills" states that NFPA 1500 requires the sealing surface of the face piece must be in direct contact with the user's skin. There must not be hair or a beard in the seal area. (Page 49).

Procedures

The Instructor for a class who believes a problem may exist shall conduct a seal test with the individual and the face piece intended to be worn. If a seal can be obtained to the satisfaction of the instructor, the student may participate. For information on face piece seal testing use references; IFSTA *Fundamentals of Firefighter Skills*, page 91-92. Delmar Learning, *Firefighter's Handbook* page 156-158.

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11/01/2007